(b) to (d) No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government. The Government is committed to continuing its endeavour to evolve a broad consensus on the implementation of steps for wide ranging devolution of powers to the States that leads to efficiency in administration, acceleration in development and fullest realization of the creative potential of all sections of our people.

Strike in Kargil district

† 1940. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's reaction to the news-item which appeared in "Punjab Kesri", dated the 7th July, 2000 under the caption "Kargil Zile mein hartaal";

(b) what has been the impact of the strike on the defence activities alongwith the details of the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government would take any steps to ensure that such strikes may not take place in the border areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The State Government is aware of news report in Punjab Kesri dated 7.7.2000 captioned "Kargil Zile Mein Hartal" (Strike in Kargil District). Regarding hartal in Kargil, the same was observed by the inhabitants of Kargil town and its neighbouring villages against the inability of the district administration to restore power supply from the only Hydel Project supplying power to the Kargil Town. The Hydel project has been out of order for the last several months due to non-availability of spares. The strike has not affected the security in any way. The strike is a means of expressing grievances of the public.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.